

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 28, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Applicant notes that prosecution on the merits, with respect to the above-cited application, is closed in accordance with *Ex parte Quayle*. Claims 8 and 25 has been amended. The above amendments are submitted in an effort to improve the quality of the issued patent; these amendments do not have any affect on the patentability or the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and/or search. Claims 20-24 and 26-28 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-19 and 25 are pending and claims 1-19 have been allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of the claims 1-19.

Claims 20-28 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 1-9. Applicant notes that claims 20-24 and 26-28 have been cancelled. However, Applicant submits that claim 25, which has been amended to depend on claim 5, recites in that last line that the COS status notification relates to all of the first group of ports. Claim 6, on the other hand, recites in the last line that the COS status notification relates to all of the second group of ports. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 25 is not a substantial duplication of claim 6 and Applicant requests that this objection be withdrawn and that claim 25 be allowed.

As claims 1-19 have been indicated as being allowed, and all outstanding issues have been addressed, Applicant respectfully requests that claim 25 also be allowed and that the instant application be allowed to proceed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene P. Neal
Arlene P. Neal
Registration No. 43,828

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

APN:kmp